

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An isolated or purified metal-containing ribonucleotide protein (RNP) (RPN) containing a protein from the family of S100 proteins, an RNA and a copper ion, wherein the RNP RPN is in the form of a ternary complex, wherein the RNA has a nucleotide sequence having a consensus nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, and wherein the protein from the family of S100 proteins (i) has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, (ii) has two EF hand motifs and a zinc(II) ion binding site and (iii) (iii) specifically binds to the RNA.

9. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an isolated or purified metal-containing RNP RPN according to claim 8, characterized in that leucocytes or inflammation tissue is homogenized or leucocytes are cultivated and the resulting RNP is recovered from the homogenates or from the supernatant of the culture solution by standard methods.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The isolated or purified metal-containing RNP RPN of claim 8, wherein the nucleotide sequence having a consensus nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 is SEQ ID NO: 3.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The isolated or purified metal-containing RNP RPN of claim 11, wherein the protein has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

14. (Currently Amended) A medicament comprising the metal-containing ribonucleotide protein RNP (RPN) of claim 8 and/or a molecular biological equivalent and/or fragment and/or derivative thereof.

In re Apnl. Of Kiesewetter et al.
Application No. 09/646,651

15-29. (Canceled)